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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. [FR-5915-N-03](#)]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment on the Family Self-Sufficiency Program Demonstration

AGENCY: Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Comments Due Date: **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: HUD Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503; fax: 202-395-5806. Email: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Colette Pollard, Reports Management Officer, QDAM, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20410. E-mail Colette Pollard at Colette.Pollard@hud.gov or telephone, 202-402-3400. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. This is not a toll-free number.

Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained by Ms. Pollard.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended). This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including if the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program Demonstration.

Description of the need for information and proposed use:

The Department is conducting this study under contract with MDRC and its subcontractors (Branch Associates and M. Davis and Company, Inc.). The project is an evaluation of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program operated at Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) across the United States. The study will use random-assignment methods to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. FSS has operated since 1992 and serves voucher holders and residents of public housing. The FSS model is essentially a five-year program, and includes case management plus an escrow account. FSS case managers create a plan with families to achieve goals and connect with services that will enhance their employment opportunities. Families accrue money in their escrow accounts as they increase their earnings. To date, HUD has funded two other studies of

the FSS program, but neither can indicate how well families would have done in the absence of the program. A random assignment model is needed because participant self-selection into Family Self Sufficiency program limits the ability to know whether program features rather than the characteristics of the participating families caused tenant income gains. Random assignment will limit the extent to which selection bias is driving observed results. The demonstration will document the progress of a group of FSS participants from initial enrollment to program completion (or exit). The intent is to gain a deeper understanding of the program and illustrate strategies that assist participants to obtain greater economic independence. While the main objective of FSS is stable, suitable employment, there are many interim outcomes of interest, including: getting a first job; getting a higher paying job; self-employment/small business ownership; no longer needing benefits provided under one or more welfare programs; obtaining additional education, whether in the form of a high school diploma, higher education degree, or vocational training; buying a home; buying a car; setting up savings accounts; or accomplishing similar goals that lead to economic independence.

Data collection will include the families that are part of the treatment and control groups. Data will be gathered through surveys.

Members of the affected public:

Families receiving subsidized housing and enrolled in the FSS program (treatment group):	1,281
Families receiving subsidized housing and not enrolled in the FSS program (control group):	1,270

Estimation of the total number of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:

Instrument	Number of Respondents	Number responses per respondent	Average burden/ response (in hours)	Total burden hours
36-Month Survey	2,551	1	45 minutes (.75)	1,913
TOTAL				1,913 hours

Status of the proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: Title 13 U.S.C. section 9(a), and title 12, U.S.C., section 1701z-1 *et seq.*

Dated: April 21, 2016.

Katherine M. O'Regan, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for
Policy Development and Research